

THE OWNER , GUIDO , IS TOSSING A PIZZA DOUGH IN THE AIR , AND DOES A DOUBLE TAKE AT MARCELS' DEEP VOICE . THE LARGE CIRCLE OF DOUGH FALLS ON HIS HEAD . MARCEL LAUGHS .

What's wrong Guido ? Don't know a friend when you see one ?

GUIDO

Whatsa matter wit you ? Can't give me a little warning , you gotta sneak up on a paisan ?

MARCEL REACHES OVER THE COUNTER TO HELP HIM . THE DOUGH IS STICKY AND GUIDOS' FACE IS DUSTED WITH FLOUR .

MARCEL

How about that slice , I'm starving ?

GUIDO CUTS A BIG SLICE AND SERVES IT TO MARCEL .

GUIDO

So ? What's so new about a starving artist ?

MARCEL TAKES A BIG BITE OF THE STEAMING HOT PIZZA .

MARCEL

HAH ! That taste , it reminds me of Sicily.

GUIDO SMILES AND HANDS HIM A SODA . MARCEL GULPS IT DOWN .

GUIDO

Now you mention Sicily , do you think you could paint me a mural on that wall ? Maybe from pictures of my town back home , I want to fix this place up a little .

MARCEL

Sure , get some photos together for me to work from . After my next gallery opening , I'll be happy to .

GUIDO

How much you gonna charge me ? I'm not doing so great , yet , but I would love to look at Sicily instead of a dirty wall .

MARCEL

Everybodys' renovating around here .  
How about ... free pizza for life ?

GUIDO

I don't know , you eat a lot of pizza .

MARCEL

But my paintings are worth more every  
year , and that's a big space .

GUIDO

Allright , but just for you , your dates  
gotta pay .

MARCEL

I don't take my dates out for pizza .

GUIDO OPENS A BOTTLE OF CHIANTI AND POURS A GLASS FOR MARCEL AND  
ONE HIMSELF . HE RAISES HIS .

GUIDO

Then it's a deal , let's drink to it .

THEY CLINK GLASSES . MARCEL FINISHES HIS MEAL .

Come by tommorrow , I'll bring the photos .

MARCEL

O.K. I'll see you for lunch .

MARCEL PUSHES THE SHOPPING CART TOWARDS THE NEARBY ALLEY .

GUIDO

(mumbling)

What's wrong with pizza for dates ?

5.

MARCEL CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY TO THE STUDIO THROUGH THE BACK  
ALLEYS OF SOUTH BEACH . DRESSED AS A " BAG LADY " , NOBODY  
PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO HIM , IN FACT , THEY AVERT THIER EYES .  
THIS ENABLES HIM TO LOCATE AND COLLECT " FOUND OBJECTS " FOR  
HIS WORK IN RELATIVE PEACE AND SECURITY . HE HUMS A TUNE AS  
HE HAPPILY FORAGES THROUGH THE FORGOTTEN WASTE OF SOBE .

INT . STUDIO - NIGHT

MARCEL HAS PEELED OFF HIS BAG LADY DISGUISE AND LEFT IT ON THE FUTON IN A HEAP . HE'S WEARING LOOSE WHITE COTTON BOXER SHORTS WHOSE ELASTIC IS FAILING . HE HABITUALLY WIPES HIS PAINT LADEN BRUSHES ON THEM AND THEY BEAR MANY BRIGHT COLORED SWATCHES . HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A BIG TROPICAL SCENE FEATURING SEVERAL BRILLIANTLY COLORED BIRDS . HIS WORK IS FAINTLY REMINISCENT OF THE NAIVE HAITIAN ART THAT IS SO POPULAR AMONGST TOURISTS . HE PAUSES WHEN HE HEARS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR . HE ANSWERS IN A FALSETTO VOICE .

MARCEL

Who is it ?

MARIA

It's me , Maria .

MARCEL OPENS THE DOOR , SHE SKATES IN .

MARCEL

What are you doing up so late ?

MARIA

This isn't late . I was waiting for the I.R.S. lady to leave before I came here.

MARCEL

She just left ? She must be collecting a hell of a lot of overtime .

MARIA

(laughing)

What do you care , you're not paying her salary . She was asking everybody about you when they came home .

MARCEL

Did anyone tell her anything ?

MARIA

No , except maybe the old ladies . They got her to play canasta with them and she lost a bunch of money .

MARCEL

There goes her overtime . I bet she deducts it as a business expense' .

MARIA

Anyway , it's safe to come home , she's gone now . I got to go , tommorrow's school .

MARCEL

Thanks , you're an angel .

HE LEANS DOWN AND KISSES HER CHEEK . SHE BLUSHES AND SKATES OUT. MARCEL GOES BACK AND PUTS A FEW MORE STROKES ON THE BACKGROUND BEFORE HE CLEANS HIS BRUSHES . HE DONS HIS BAG LADY COSTUME , BUT LEAVES THE HEAVILY LADEN SHOPPING CART IN THE STUDIO .

7.

MARCEL WALKS BACK TO HIS APARTMENT DOWN THE THE NEON LIT STREETS OF SOUTH BEACH . THE FASHIONABLY DRESSED REGULARS AND TOURISTS GIVE HIM A WIDE BERTH AS HE MAKES HIS WAY THRU THE CROWDS IN FRONT OF THE CLUBS .

8.

THE COURTYARD IS DESERTED EXCEPT FOR THE STRAY CAT THAT OFTEN FREQUENTS THE NEIGHBORHOOD , LIVING ON SCRAPS THE OLD LADIES PUT OUT . THERE IS A SMALL MOVING VAN IN THE ALLEY , AND A BEAUTIFUL MODEL IS MOVING INTO AN APARTMENT IN SECRECY . ELOISE IS HOLDING A STEREO THAT SHE NEARLY DROPS WHEN SHE SPOTS A DIRTY BAG LADY UNLOCKING THE DOOR TO THE APARTMENT BUILDING AND DISAPPEARING INTO A NEARBY APARTMENT . SHE LOOKS FURIOUS .

ELOISE

That landlord is going to get a piece of my mind .

SHE PUTS THE STEREO UNDER HER ARM AND SWOOPS UP THE SUPRISED CAT WITH HER FREE HAND .

No pets , but they rent to bag ladies .

AS SHE FOLLOWS MARCEL THRU THE DOOR , THERE IS A PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED SIGN THAT READS " POSTED; NO RENTALS , IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO RENT IN THIS BUILDING " .

What have I gotten myself into ?

9.

9.

INT. MARCELS APARTMENT - NIGHT

MARCEL OPENS THE DOOR TO THE DARKENED ROOM AND THERE IS A RED LIGHT BLINKING AND BEEPING SOUND COMING FROM THE ANSWERING MACHINE . MARCEL TURNS ON THE LIGHT TO REVEAL A BRIGHTLY COLORED ROOM FILLED WITH HIS PAINTINGS . IT'S COMFORTABLY FURNISHED WITH FUTONS , QUAIN T HAITIAN TABLE AND CHAIRS , AND AN ARMOIRE IN TRADITIONAL HAITIAN PATTERNS AND COLORS . MARCEL TAKES OFF HIS COSTUME AND HANGS IT WITH OTHERS IN THE CROWDED ARMOIRE . HE SHUTS OFF THE LIGHT AND LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AT ELOISE AS SHE CARRIES SOME CLOTHING ON HANGERS THRU THE COURTYARD .

MARCEL

Mmm . Tasty .

10.

INT. ELOISES' APARTMENT - MORNING

ELOISE IS SOUND ASLEEP ON A FUTON IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EMPTY ROOM . THE STRAY CAT SHE BROUGHT IN IS LICKING HER FACE AND HUNGRILY MEOWING . SHE INEFFECTUALLY SWATS IT AWAY AND GOES BACK TO SLEEP . IT GOES TO THE DOOR , SCRATCHES AT IT WHILE MEOWING LOUDLY . ELOISE RELUCTANTLY GETS UP AND OPENS THE DOOR AS THE CAT SCAMPERS OUT .

ELOISE

I think I'll name you after my agent .  
They never let me sleep either .

SHE LOCKS THE DOOR AND WALKS INTO THE BATHROOM PAST THE DRESSING ROOM PILED HIGH WITH ALL HER OTHER BELONGINGS . SHE LOOKS AT THE MESS WITH DISTASTE .

Just give me a minute to wake up .

WHEN SHE EMERGES , SHE HANGS UP ALL THE CLOTHES IN THE SPACIOUS WALK-IN CLOSET . WHEN SHE FINISHES , THE PILE HAS DWINDLED AWAY TO NOTHING . THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR , AND WHEN SHE ANSWERS IT , SHE FINDS MARCEL WITH A BAG OF BREAKFAST FROM BURGER KING AND A NEWSPAPER . HE STANDS THERE WITH A SHEEPISH GRIN , AND THE CAT RUBS AGAINST HIS LEGS AS IT SLIPS IN THRU THE OPEN DOOR .

MARCEL

Welcome wagon . I saw you moving in last night , and I can promise you , this is probably the only friendly gesture you're likely to get .

SHE LOOKS HIM OVER AND POINTS TO THE FUTON .

ELOISE

That's the only place to sit , thanks for the breakfast , I desperately need a cup of coffee . Funny I didn't notice you last night , only some old bag lady .

MARCEL NERVOUSLY STROKES THE CAT AND GIVES IT BITS OF HIS FOOD .

MARCEL

This place is pretty bare . I'm an artist and I might have some paintings you'd like .

ELOISE

Thanks , but I was planning to have some of my portfolio shots blown up to hang in here . Color lasers are really nice , and not too expensive .

MARCEL

Well I'll send you an invitation to my gallery opening . What's your name ? I'm Marcel Etienne , so you'll know .

ELOISE

Eloise , I only use my first name for modeling , like Cher or Madonna . Why did you say yours would be the only welcome I'd get ?

MARCEL

Didn't you see the sign posted outside your door ? This is a co-op girl , no renting allowed . You need to buy your bit of the beach in this building .

ELOISE

That's no problem , I do a lot of shoots here , it will be a good investment .

MARCEL

Damn good , but the the co-op board will never issue you a stock certificate after you rented from the damn speculators that are battling with the board of directors .

ELOISE

(smiling)

Well , put in a good word for me' . I think I might like it here .

MARCEL

You certainly would make an attractive addition . Frankly , I'm sick of only seeing blue-haired members of the fair sex around here . I'll give it a try .

ELOISE

To return the favor , let me buy you a meal . How about dinner tonight ?

MARCEL

Damn , I'm supposed to be performing at the club tonight . Why don't you come , and we can have dinner after ?

ELOISE

A man of many talents , hmh , sounds great if I don't have an early booking tomorrow...it's a date .

MARCEL

I'll call for you at 8 , dress casual .

ELOISE OPENS THE DOOR AND SCOOPS UP THE CAT AS IT TRIES TO ESCAPE AS MARCEL EXITS .

ELOISE

Not so fast , you're getting a bath .

THE MEOWS PITEOUSLY AFTER THE RETREATING MARCEL . HE LOOKS BACK AND WAVES . HE ONLY HAS EYES FOR ELOISE . THE CAT TRIES IN VAIN TO STRUGGLE FREE . IT SCRATCHES ELOISE ON THE HAND .

Ungrateful beast , just for that , I'm going to use soap . Industrial strength . That tongue of yours isn't doing the trick .

11.

EXT. SOBE CO-OP COURTYARD - MORNING

IT'S A SUNNY MORNING AND SELMA IS SITTING AT HER USUAL PLACE , WITH HER NOSE STUCK RIGHT UP IN THE NEWSPAPER . SHE SEEMS VERY

cont.

12.

ABSORBED , BUT GLANCES UP AS MARCEL APPROACHES . HE HAS THE LOOK OF A TRAPPED RAT AS SHE CORNERS HIM .

SELMA

I saw you coming out of that new renters' apartment . We're calling a meeting to discuss what to do about her .

MARCEL

She seems very nice , and she's interested in buying the place . Maybe the board should approve her and get one apartment out of the speculators' possession .

SELMA

You sound like a traitor Marcel . She's probably just another front for them .

MARCEL

Talking about traitors , what did you all tell that I.R.S. agent about me ? I heard you girls got pretty chummy with her .

SELMA

Who told you that ? I didn't say a thing .

MARCEL

That's hard to believe . Maria heard the whole thing .

SELMA

That's what comes from tolerating renters . No pets or children are allowed . This used to be such a nice neighborhood .

MARCEL

It will be again . Call me when the time for the meeting is set . Later .

SELMA GOES BACK TO HER NEWSPAPER UNTIL MARIA COMES OUT TO CATCH THE SCHOOLBUS . SHE CALLS OUT TO HER , BUT MARIA POINTS TO HER WATCH AND WAVES HER OFF .

Steer clear of her , she's on the warpath .



ACT TWO  
SCENE 1

INT . CARIBBEAN CLUB - NIGHT - MUSICAL INTRO .

MARCEL IS ON STAGE WITH HIS BAND PERFORMING AN ORIGINAL REGGAE NUMBER . ELOISE IS AT A TABLE DOWN IN FRONT SIPPING ON A TALL PLANTERS PUNCH , AS SHE GAZES FONDLY AT MARCEL . HAMILTON IS LURKING NEAR THE STAGE SHOOTING FOOTAGE WITH HIS VIDEO CAMERA . MARCEL NOTICES AND LOOKS WORRIED . THERE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND MARCEL JOINS HER AT HER TABLE .

ELOISE

Yeah mon , I'm impressed .

BILLY JOE POUNCES ON MARCEL FROM OUT OF NOWHERE , HUGS HIM AND PLANTS A BIG RED LIPSTICK MARK ON HIS CHEEK . HE IS DRESSED UP LIKE CARMEN MIRANDA AND IS PRECARIOUSLY BALANCING ON 7" SPIKES BEFORE HE FLOPS DOWN IN A CHAIR . ELOISE CAN HARDLY CONTAIN HER AMUSEMENT .

BILLY JOE

You were fabulous , darling .

MARCEL

Eloise , this is Billy Joe , one of our neighbors . Eloise just moved in .

ELOISE

Are you performing here tonight ?

BILLY JOE

No , sweetie , I'm a personal trainer at a health club on Washington .

ELOISE

Really , I might want to work out if it's nearby . I know some models that would join me , if you're as good as you look .

BILLY JOE

Check these muscles , girlfriend .

HAMILTON IS SKULKING AROUND THE THREE WITH HIS CAMERA . MARCEL CONFRONTS HIM .

MARCEL

Hey , Ham , what do you intend to do with that footage . I don't want any publicity right now .

HAMILTON

Nothing much , file footage .

MARCEL

Let me keep it in my file , O.K.

HAMILTON BALKS AT THAT IDEA UNTIL BOTH MARCEL AND BILLY JOE CORNER HIM , THREATENINGLY . HE POPS THE VIDEO OUT OF THE CAMERA AND HANDS IT OVER TO MARCEL .

ELOISE

Who's that little creep ?

MARCEL

Another one of our neighbors . You know that camper always parked in front of the building ? That's his .

BILLY JOE

There's my date , isn't he dreamy ?  
See you later , welcome to the hood .

ELOISE

What a character . I wonder what else Sobe has in store for me ?

MARCEL TAKES HER HAND IN HIS , GAZES INTO HER EYES , AND PLANTS A KISS ON IT .

MARCEL

Only wild and wonderful things , my dear.

ELOISE

What wild and wonderful things have you got in mind ?

MARCEL

Moonlit walks by the sea , to start .

ELOISE

Followed by ?

MARCEL

Passion .

ELOISE

A poet , too .

MARCEL

I could be anything for you .

2.

DISSOLVE TO THE TWO WALKING HAND IN HAND ON THE BEACH BAREFOOT,  
SILOUHETTED BY THE FULL MOON . MUSIC IS PLAYING , MARCEL SINGS .

FADE OUT .

3.

FADE IN ; EXT. SOBE CO-OP COURTYARD - MORNING

MARCEL AND ELOISE ARE JUST ARRIVING HOME AS MARIA IS LEAVING TO  
CATCH THE SCHOOLBUS . SHE GREETES MARCEL WITH A HUG .

MARCEL

I'm glad I saw you before you caught  
the bus . Can you come to my studio  
after school today ? I got the flyers  
ready . By the way , have you met Eloise?

MARIA

No , not yet .

ELOISE

I'm your new neighbor .

MARIA

Hi , sure I can come by . Here's my bus,  
I'll see you later .

MARCEL

Remind me to give you a flyer for my  
gallery opening this weekend . Can you  
make it ?

ELOISE

Wouldn't miss it .

THEY KISS IN THE COURTYARD AND GO TO THIER SEPARATE APARTMENTS .  
AS SHE OPENS THE DOOR TO HER APARTMENT , THE CAT ESCAPES AND  
RUNS OUT OF SIGHT THRU THE OPEN FRONT DOOR .

Damn .

ELOISE IS LOOKING OVER HER SHOULDER AT THE DISAPPEARING CAT AS  
SELMA OPENS THE DOOR TO HER APARTMENT AND LOOKS OUT . SHE IS  
TOTALLY NUDE BUT IS HIDDEN BEHIND THE DOOR . SHE NOTICES ELOISE  
CATCHING HER , AND QUICKLY SLAMS THE DOOR .

Old snoop .

4.

INT . MARCELS' STUDIO - DAY

MARCEL IS PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE LARGE PAINTING .  
THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR AND HE CHECKS HIS WATCH BEFORE HE  
ANSWERS . HE WIPES HIS BRUSH ON HIS SHORTS .

MARIA

It's me , Maria . Are you decent ?

MARCEL GRABS A CAPTAN HANGING BY THE DOOR AND SLIPS INTO IT .  
HE OPENS THE DOOR AND MARIA AND A GIRL FROM THE W.O.W.S SKATES  
IN WITH HER . SHE HAS A TATOO OF A ROSE ON HER THIGH THAT SHOWS  
PROMINENTLY FROM THE WELL MUSCLED AREA BENEATH HER SHORTS .

This is Rosa , the leader of Women on  
Wheels , Rosa , this is Marcel .

ROSA

Maria says you need us to help hand out  
flyers for a show , and there's going to  
be a party .

MARCEL

Maria is right , and if you help , you'll  
be welcome to come .

ROSA

Allright , we'll do it , as long as the  
Blades ain't coming .

MARIA

Hey , Rosa , I wanted to have the Blades  
come too .

ROSA

Listen Munchkin , we got a battle going  
with those dudes , it's them or us .

MARCEL

Can't you call a truce for just one night ?  
The kid has her heart set on it .

MARIA

Please...if you want , I'll set up a meeting .

ROSA

Well , I'll talk to my girls . Now , where's  
those flyers you want handed out ?

MARCEL

They're over by the door , and thanks a lot .

ROSA

No problem . Maria , grab a bunch . Catch you  
later...(looks around) nice pictures .

MARCEL KISSES MARIA ON THE TOP OF HEAD AS THE TWO SKATE OUT THE  
DOOR .

MARIA

Later .

MARCEL SLIPS OUT OF THE CAFTAN AND PICKS UP HIS PALETTE AND A  
BRUSH AND STEPS BACK TO THE EASEL . THERE A KNOCK AT THE DOOR A  
FEW BRUSHSTROKES LATER .

It's Maria .

HE OPENS THE DOOR AND SHE SKATES IN ALONE , PICKS UP FLYERS .

Do you think I ought to bring these to the  
the Blades ?

MARCEL

No , give her a chance to work it out first.

EXT . SOBE COURTYARD - DUSK

MARIA SKATES INTO THE COURTYARD PAST SELMA . SELMA PASTES A FALSE SMILE ON HER FACE AND WAVES MARIA OVER .

SELMA

Good evening .

MARIA IGNORES HER AND SKATES TO THE ALLEY TO GIVE MARCEL THE ALL CLEAR SIGN . HE ISN'T IN DISGUISE , SO HE'S BEING VERY CAUTIOUS . HE PASSES SELMA ON HIS WAY TO HIS APARTMENT .

Marcel , there's a co-op meeting scheduled for next week . There's a notice posted on the walls .

MARCEL

Will all the board members be there ?

SELMA

I don't know . Why do you care ? Why the sudden interest ?

MARCEL

A reason close to my heart .

SELMA

Not that pretty renter , I hope .

MARCEL

Your hopes will be dashed once again , I fear . She wants to buy that place , and I want the board to approve it .

SELMA

You know we're in and out of court with those bums . Impossible , can't be done .

MARCEL

Thank the lord that we're a democracy . Why do you act like a fascist dictator ?

SELMA

Getting fresh won't help your cause .

MARCEL

You're on your way out , old lady .  
Everything changes and if you refuse ,  
life will pass you by .

MARIA SKATES CIRCLES AROUND SELMA , MAKING HER DIZZY .

MARIA

Facist dictator , Facist dictator .

CARMEN STICKS HER HEAD OUT OF THE WINDOW AND SHOUTS .

CARMEN

Maria , come in for supper .

SELMA

Go , your mother's calling you .

SELMA ROLLS UP A PAPER AND TRIES TO SWAT MARIA WITH IT . MARIA  
LAUGHS AS SHE DUCKS , AND SKATES OUT OF REACH OF THE IRATE OLD  
LADY .

See the kind of stuff she's picking up  
from you ? Now she's hanging out with  
those gangs that terrorize the beach  
on skates .

MARCEL

She's a good kid with a head on her  
shoulders . She won't get into any  
serious trouble , she was just trying  
to tease you .

SELMA

That's how it starts , disrespect for  
your elders , then drugs , sex ...in  
my day ...

MARCEL

My point exactly . Your day was decades  
ago . Times have changed .

SELMA

In my day ...things were better .

INT . MARCELS' STUDIO - DAY

MARCEL IS SITTING ON THE FUTON AS MARIA SKATES IN WITH ROSA .  
THEY SIT ON EIGHTER SIDE OF HIM .

MARCEL

Who's coming from the Blades ?

MARIA

Tiger . He's going to a little late .

ROSA

Damn , can't even do that right .

MARIA

Rosa , take a chill pill , we're  
here to make peace , right ?

MARCEL

Rosa , please stay sweet . Tiger is  
going to explode if you come off like  
that right off the bat .

ROSA

Back off . I don't "stay sweet" for no  
man , especially no Blades .

TIGER KNOCKS AT THE DOOR AND SKATES IN . HE HAS LONG DARK HAIR  
AND IS COVERED WITH TIGER TATOOS . HE IS A NATIVE AMERICAN WITH  
A CHISELED FACE AND A DISTINCTIVE LOOK .

MARIA

Tiger , meet my friend Marcel and Rosa .

TIGER

Hi , Rosa I know well .

ROSA

Not as well as you'd like to .

TIGER

Don't flatter yourself , woman .  
You're not exactly my type .



MARCEL

You're both the same type . Stubborn as mules . Can't you put aside the usual hostilities and cooperate with each other ?

MARIA

We can have a great party if you two can be friends for one night . How 'bout it ?

THEY TENTATIVELY NOD AT EACH OTHER , WHILE KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE .

Tiger , here's a bunch of flyers for you .

MARCEL

If this works out , maybe we can start to organize some activities that will interest both groups .

THEY BOTH LOOK AT HIM LIKE HE'S FROM OUTER SPACE . ROSA SMIRKS.

ROSA

In your dreams .

TIGER LAUGHS .

MARCEL

Rome wasn't built in a day..

MARIA

At least you tried .

TIGER

O.K. I'll start getting these out , but you owe me , man .

MARCEL

You know where I live .

MARIA

Let's let Marcel get back to work . He needs to finish these paintings by Friday.

THEY TAKE THE REST OF THE FLYERS AND SKATE OUT OF THE STUDIO .

INT . GUIDOS' PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

MARCEL IS PAINTING A MURAL ON THE WALL AS GUIDO TAKES A PIZZA OUT OF THE OVEN AND PUTS IT ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF ELOISE . HE OPENS A BOTTLE OF CHIANTI AND POURS THREE GLASSES . ELOISE TAKES A BITE , AND SMILES APPRECIATIVELY .

ELOISE

Mmm. This is delicious . The best I've had since I left Italy .

GUIDO

See Marcel , I told you pizza was good for dates . Stop and have a little bit to eat , you've been working for hours .

MARCEL

This was the only chance I've had to do any work on this wall . I've been hard at work on the gallery opening , and I finished hanging it this afternoon .

GUIDO

You open tomorrow night ? What are they serving ?

MARCEL

The usual , you know , wine and cheese .

GUIDO

I just had a great idea . The napkins you designed came in today . What if I fix something and serve it with them at the gallery . Good advertising , huh ?

ELOISE

People don't walk around a gallery munching on a slice of pizza . Too awkward . You need finger food . Maybe little quiches , rumaki stuff like that.

GUIDO

You know how to cook ? You want to help me fix something nice ?

ELOISE

Me ? I can't boil water .

MARCEL

No wonder you never invited me to your place for dinner . In fact , I never noticed any pots or pans .

GUIDO

Well you can read can't you . Help me pick some things from mama's recipe collection to try .

ELOISE

Allright , that sounds like fun .

MARCEL

Igor , come to the labor-atory .

ELOISE

How hard can it be ?

GUIDO AND ELOISE MESS AROUND BEHIND THE COUNTER EXPERIMENTING WHILE MARCEL PAINTS THE MURAL . HE LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER AND SMILES AT ELOISE IN AN APRON AND CHEFS' HAT , COVERED IN FLOUR .

8.

INT . GALLERY OPENING - NIGHT

THE GALLERY WALLS ARE COVERED WITH MARCELS' PAINTINGS . THE SHOPPING CART WITH ALL THE OBJECTS MARCEL COLLECTED FROM THE DUMPSTERS OF SOUTH BEACH SITS IN THE CENTER OF THE SPACE . THE FRESHLY PAINTED PINK FLAMINGO TOPS THE SCULPTURE LIKE A CHERRY ON TOP OF A SUNDAE . THE PRICE TAG ATTACHED IS A \$5,000 JOKE . GUIDO IS DRESSED IN A CHEF'S HAT AND APRON WITH THE NAME OF HIS RESTAURENT EMBLAZONED ON THE FRONT . HE IS PASSING A TRAY OF TINY PIZZAS .

GUIDO

Try one , they're better than quiche .

MARCEL AND ELOISE ARE TOURING THE EXHIBIT TOGETHER , WINE GLASS IN HAND . SHE IS VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY HIS BODY OF WORK . THE W.O.W.S AND BLADES SKATE INTO THE GALLERY , HEAD FOR THE WINE AND SKATE AROUND THE EXHIBIT . THEY GREET MARCEL .

MARCEL

Where's Maria ? I thought she would be coming with you .

ROSA

She'll be here . She's planning a suprise .

A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER FROM A PROMINENT NEWSPAPER ARE CHECKING OUT THE EXHIBIT . THEY APPROACH MARCEL FOR AN INTERVIEW AND ARE PUT OFF BY THE SKATERS MILLING AROUND HIM . MARIA MAKES AN ENTRANCE ACCOMPANIED BY CARMEN . SHE'S WEARING A FRILLY DRESS AND RIBBONS IN HER HAIR , A REAL DEPARTURE FROM HER USUAL CASUAL OUTFITS . THE SKATERS GATHER AROUND HER LEAVING MARCEL FREE .

What a suprise , chica . You look great .

THE REPORTER IS ASKING MARCEL ABOUT THE PRICE OF "FOUND OBJECTS" SCULPTURE AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS A SHOT OF MARCEL HOLDING THE PRICE TAG . MARIA SHYLY PULLS ON MARCELS' SHIRT . HE PICKS HER UP AND PLANTS A BIG KISS ON HER CHEEK . SHE BEAMS .

MARCEL

Hey gorgeous , what do you think of the show ?

MARIA

I love it , but it needs people pictures .

MARCEL

Next time I'll paint my favorite little girl .

ELOISE SLIPS HER ARM INTO HIS AND PUTS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER.

And my favorite big girl , too .

9.

CLOSE ON A WELL MANICURED PAIR OF HANDS HOLDING A NEWSPAPER . THE FEATURED ARTICLE IS ABOUT MARCELS' GALLERY OPENING . THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MARCEL HOLDING A \$5,000.00 PRICE TAG FOR A SHOPPING CART FULL OF DUMPSTER DIVERS TREASURES CATCHES HER ATTENTION . THE CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE STARTLED FACE OF THE I.R.S. AGENT . SHE READS THE ARTICLE AND GETS ANGRY AS SHE RECALLS THE BAG LADY WITH THE SAME SHOPPING CART .

AGENT

You won't elude me again , my friend .

THE END

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